

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 3 as follows:

~~In accordance with one aspect of the present composite over-wrapped lightweight core, there is provided a baseball bat having an outermost striking surface comprising: a solid lightweight foam core, the core comprising: a shaft having a longitudinal handle portion at one end of the bat for manipulation by a user during use of the bat, and a longitudinal striking portion at a second opposite end of the bat for striking by the user; and a singular external polymer composite skin rigidly bonded with an adhesive resin directly to the exterior surface of the handle portion and the striking portion of the core, the polymer composite skin comprising fibers impregnated with the resin and forming the outermost striking surface of the bat, whereby the weight of the bat is lower than the weight of a conventional metal or wood bat and whereby the strength, durability and performance of the bat is improved.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 18 with the following:

In accordance with ~~another~~ one aspect of the present composite over-wrapped lightweight core, there is provided a baseball bat having an outermost striking surface comprising: a lightweight core, the core comprising: a shaft having a longitudinal handle portion at one end of the bat for manipulation by a user during use of the bat, the handle portion made of a lightweight material other than foam, and a longitudinal striking portion at

a second opposite end of the bat for striking by the user, the striking portion made of a lightweight foam; and a singular external polymer composite skin rigidly bonded with an adhesive resin directly to the exterior surface of the handle portion and the striking portion of the core, the polymer composite skin comprising fibers impregnated with the resin and forming the outermost striking surface of the bat, wherein a portion of the handle portion extends into and is encased by the striking portion, whereby the weight of the bat is lower than the weight of a conventional metal or wood bat and whereby the strength, durability and performance of the bat is improved.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 1 with the following:

~~In accordance with yet another aspect of the present composite over-wrapped lightweight core, there is provided a baseball bat having an outermost striking surface comprising: a solid lightweight foam core, the core comprising: a shaft having a longitudinal handle portion at one end of the bat for manipulation by a user during use of the bat, and a longitudinal striking portion at a second opposite end of the bat for striking by the user; and two or more external polymer composite skins rigidly bonded with an adhesive resin directly to the exterior surface of the handle portion and the striking portion of the core, the polymer composite skins comprising fibers impregnated with the resin and forming the outermost striking surface of the bat, whereby the weight of the bat is lower than the weight of a~~

~~conventional metal or wood bat and whereby the strength, durability and performance of the bat is improved.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 12 with the following:

In accordance with ~~a still further~~ another aspect of the present composite over-wrapped lightweight core, there is provided a baseball bat having an outermost striking surface comprising: a lightweight core, the core comprising: a shaft having a longitudinal handle portion at one end of the bat for manipulation by a user during use of the bat, the handle portion made of a lightweight material other than foam, and a longitudinal striking portion at a second opposite end of the bat for striking by the user, the striking portion made of a lightweight foam; and two or more external polymer composite skins rigidly bonded with an adhesive resin directly to the exterior surface of the handle portion and the striking portion of the core, the polymer composite skins comprising fibers impregnated with the resin and forming the outermost striking surface of the bat, wherein a portion of the handle portion extends into and is encased by the striking portion, whereby the weight of the bat is lower than the weight of a conventional metal or wood bat and whereby the strength, durability and performance of the bat is improved.

Please add the following paragraphs beginning on page 7, line 28 after
“improved”:

In accordance with a further aspect, there is provided a baseball bat having an outermost striking surface comprising: a lightweight core, the core comprising: a shaft having a longitudinal handle portion at one end of the bat for manipulation by a user during use of the bat, the handle portion made of a lightweight material other than foam, and a longitudinal striking portion at a second opposite end of the bat for striking by the user, the striking portion made of a lightweight foam; and a singular external polymer composite skin rigidly bonded with an adhesive resin directly to the exterior surface of the handle portion and the striking portion of the core, the polymer composite skin comprising fibers impregnated with the resin and forming the outermost striking surface of the bat, wherein the handle portion extends into and is encased by the striking portion for up to the entire length of the striking portion, whereby the weight of the bat is lower than the weight of a conventional metal or wood bat and whereby the strength, durability and performance of the bat is improved.

In accordance with a still further aspect, there is provided a baseball bat having an outermost striking surface comprising: a lightweight core, the core comprising: a shaft having a longitudinal handle portion at one end of the bat for manipulation by a user during use of the bat, the handle portion made of a lightweight material other than foam, and a longitudinal striking portion at a second opposite end of the bat for striking by the user, the

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striking portion made of a lightweight foam; and two or more external polymer composite skins rigidly bonded with an adhesive resin directly to the exterior surface of the handle portion and the striking portion of the core, the polymer composite skins comprising fibers impregnated with the resin and forming the outermost striking surface of the bat, wherein the handle portion extends into and is encased by the striking portion for up to the entire length of the striking portion, whereby the weight of the bat is lower than the weight of a conventional metal or wood bat and whereby the strength, durability and performance of the bat is improved.